

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A communication method of communicating among a plurality of information apparatuses, comprising:

storing function index information in each of ~~said the~~ plurality of information apparatuses;

acquiring function index information associated with processes which ~~can be executed~~ are executable on each of ~~said the~~ information apparatuses connected to a network to transmit ~~said the function~~ function index information among ~~said the~~ information apparatuses, the each of the information apparatuses informing other of the information apparatuses of a method by which the apparatus itself is controlled; and

presenting the acquired function index information ~~acquired in the step of acquiring the index information.~~

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ A communication method according to claim 20, wherein ~~the step of the~~ presenting the acquired function index information presents bitmap and character information included in the acquired function index information ~~acquired in the step of acquiring the index information.~~

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A communication method for a plurality of information apparatuses, comprising:

acquiring function and information index information associated with processes which ~~can be executed~~ are executable on each of the information apparatuses connected to a

network to transmit information among them, through ~~said~~ the network, the information index information being stored in each of ~~said~~ the plurality of information apparatuses through ~~said~~ the network and relating to data held in ~~said~~ the information apparatuses, and the each of the information apparatuses informing other of the information apparatuses of a method by which the apparatus itself is controlled;

presenting the function and information index information acquired in the ~~step of~~ acquiring the function and information index information; and

when given data and a given process are linked together on the basis of the function and information index information presented in the ~~step of~~ presenting the function and information index information, transmitting the given data from one of the information apparatuses which holds the given data to another of the information apparatuses which executes the process linked with the data through ~~said~~ the network.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ A communication method according to claim 22, wherein ~~the step of~~ the presenting the function and information index information presents bitmap and character information included in the acquired function and information index information ~~acquired in the step of acquiring the index information.~~

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A communication method of communicating among a plurality of information apparatuses, comprising:

storing function and information index information in each of ~~said~~ the plurality of information apparatuses;

acquiring function and information index information associated with processes which ~~can be executed~~ are executable on each of the information apparatuses connected to a network to transmit ~~said~~ the function index information among ~~said~~ the information

apparatuses, the information index information relating to data held in ~~said the~~ information apparatuses, and the each of the information apparatuses informing other of the information apparatuses of a method by which the apparatus itself is controlled;

presenting the function and information index information acquired in ~~the step of~~ acquiring the function and information index information;

when given data and a given process are linked together on the basis of the function and information index information presented in ~~the step of~~ presenting the function and information index information, setting a connection between the information apparatus holding the data and the information apparatus holding the data and the information apparatus which executes the process linked with the data; and

using the connection ~~placed set~~ in ~~the step of~~ the setting the connection to transmit the information data using a predetermined ~~fix~~ fixed length message to ~~said the~~ information apparatus which executes the process linked with the information data.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A communication system for communicating among a plurality of information apparatuses, comprising:

a connector ~~section configured~~ to connect ~~said the~~ information apparatuses to a network;

~~an~~ a function index information acquiring ~~section~~ module configured to acquire function index information associated with processes which ~~can be executed~~ are executable on each of ~~said the~~ information apparatuses, through the network, the function index information being stored in each of ~~said the~~ plurality of information apparatuses, the each of the information apparatuses informing other of the information apparatuses of a method by which the apparatus itself is controlled; and

~~an~~ a function index information presenting ~~section~~ module configured to present the function index information acquired by the function index information acquiring ~~section~~ module.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ A communication system according to claim 25, wherein ~~said the function~~ index information presenting ~~section~~ module includes a ~~section~~ module configured to present bitmap and character information included in the function index information acquired by ~~said the function~~ index information acquiring ~~section~~ module.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): A communication system for communicating among a plurality of information apparatuses, comprising:

a connector ~~section~~ configured to connect ~~said the~~ information apparatuses to a network;

~~an~~ a function and information index information acquiring ~~section~~ module configured to acquire function and information index information associated with processes which ~~can~~ be executed are executable on each of the information apparatuses, through ~~said the~~ network, the function index information being stored in each of ~~said the~~ plurality of information apparatuses, the information index information relating to data held in ~~said the~~ information apparatuses, and the each of the information apparatuses informing other of the information apparatuses of a method by which the apparatus itself is controlled;

a function and information index information presenting ~~section~~ module configured to present the function and information index information acquired by ~~said the function and~~ information index information acquiring ~~section~~ module; and

a transmission ~~section~~ module configured ~~configure~~ to, when given data and a given process are linked together on the basis of the function and information index information

presented by said the function and information index information presenting ~~section~~ module, transmit the given data from one of the information apparatuses which holds the given data to another of the information apparatuses which executes the process linked with data through said the network.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ A communication system according to claim 27, wherein said the function and information index information presenting ~~section~~ module includes a ~~section~~ module configured to present bitmap and character information included in the function and information index information acquired by said the function and information index information acquiring ~~section~~ module.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): A communication system for communicating among a plurality of information apparatuses, comprising:

a connector ~~section~~ configured to connect said the information apparatuses to a network;

~~an~~ a function and information index information acquiring ~~section~~ module configured to acquire function and information index information associated with processes which ~~can~~ be executed are executable on each of said the information apparatuses connected to a network to transmit information among them, the function index information being transmitted over the network to be stored in each of said the plurality of information apparatuses, the information index information relating data held in said information apparatuses;

~~an~~ a function and information index information presenting ~~section~~ module configured to present the function and information index information acquired by said the function and information index information acquiring ~~section~~ module;

a first transmission ~~section~~ module configured to, when given data and a given process are linked together on the basis of the function and information index information presented by ~~said the function and information~~ index information presenting ~~section~~ module, set a connection between one of the information apparatuses which holds the data and another of ~~said the~~ the information apparatuses which executes the process linked with the data; and

a second transmission ~~section~~ module configured to transmit the information data having a predetermined ~~fix~~ fixed length message to one of ~~said the~~ the information apparatuses which executes the process linked with the information data, using the connection ~~placed~~ set by the ~~connection-setting-section~~ first transmission module.